Library’s plans include ambitious renovation

By Thomas E. Barry, vice president for executive affairs

Recently, I was alone searching for books for a writing project in a wonderfully musty and deafeningly quiet place. It wasn’t Heaven, but close to it. I was on the seventh floor of the west stacks in Fondren Library, a solemn hideaway from the high energy of the Perkins Administration building. I first visited the west stacks in 1970 as a visiting assistant professor of marketing. Today, 33 years later, luckily, the west stacks remain the same. I love libraries and find myself immersed in them at SMU these days.

When I joined President R. Gerald Turner’s team in October 1995, little did I realize that I would be in the midst of all the major renovation and new construction projects. One of the first was the Fondren Library Center that connects Fondren Library East with the Science and Engineering Library. It was the first Centennial master plan project to be completed.

Great libraries are the centerpieces of great universities. These libraries house vast quantities of knowledge, but universities are, after all, about the discovery and dissemination of knowledge. If SMU is to be considered a great university, it must have great libraries.

The next iteration of the Master Plan likely will include plans for an even more ambitious renovation of the library complex. Dean and Central University Librarian Gillian McCombs has raised $100,000 to initiate study and design of the Fondren Library Center Complex renovation project. She has been working with colleagues on developing the scope of the renovation, and we soon will form a committee to oversee the project.

In addition to the Central University Libraries, SMU houses Bridwell Library, the Underwood Law Library, and the Business Information Center. And, if Gerald Turner gets his way, the George W. Bush Presidential Center, which will include the Bush Library, will become part of SMU’s growing library resources.

SMU has wonderful facilities and we continue to design and construct outstanding facilities for our faculty, students, and staff. A key focus should and will be our libraries. It will be my pleasure to play a role in this focus. See you in the west stacks!

Fashionable words: DeGolyer receives Marcus library

The legendary Stanley Marcus — the connoisseur of fashion and good taste throughout the 20th century — consorted with politicians, celebrities, and collectors from around the world. Many of them shared his love for the printed word, typography, and graphic design.

Linda Marcus, widow of the late fashion retailer and civic leader, donated his personal library to DeGolyer Library last summer. The library closed for several days to accept the delivery of more than 10,000 books in the collection.

Among the treasures to be found in the Marcus’ library are Lyndon B. Johnson’s autobiography with a personal note tucked in the pages, Sophia Loren’s cookbook with her Italian greetings, and the 1896 edition of the Kelmscott Chaucer.

“The collection is astounding,” says Russell Martin, director of DeGolyer Library. “There are books on art, art history, literature, the book arts, business history, and fashion, collected in great depth and with a discriminating eye. The collection will support teaching and research in many disciplines, and we are greatly honored to be the recipients of this gift. SMU is fortunate indeed to have the private libraries of the two finest book collectors in Dallas in the 20th century — Stanley Marcus and Everette DeGolyer.”

First editions of works by William Faulkner, H.L. Mencken, Sinclair Lewis, and F. Scott Fitzgerald are included as well as inscribed first editions of children’s favorites — the Madeline books by Ludwig Bemelmans and the Eloise books by Kay Thompson.
DeGolyer receives Marcus library continued from page 1

Marcus’ collection also includes a first-edition Harry Potter. The collection is not limited, however, to contemporary books, Martin says. Marcus’ collection illustrates the history of printing with highlights of the printed word from every century. His Kelmscott Chaucer is one of 425 copies published by noted printer and typographer William Morris. Its marbled paper covers contain 87 woodcut illustrations on handmade paper. Harvard Library Bulletin describes it as the finest example of 19th-century printing.

The Marcus collection is the most significant bibliographical addition to DeGolyer Library since its founding, Martin says, and scholars will benefit from its riches. But the collection also offers a unique insight to Marcus and his love of the printed word.


Marcus’ touches can be found throughout the collection that filled three libraries in his home. Letters, magazine articles, and cards are tucked into books such as Lyndon B. Johnson’s The Vantage Point Perspectives of the Presidency 1963-1969 (Holt Rinehart Winston, 1971). The red leather volume contains a January 19, 1972, letter from the president thanking Marcus for his gift of cigarette lighters. Johnson concludes, “I just may never want to quit smoking again.” Marcus inserted clippings about Johnson and President John F. Kennedy from Harper’s Magazine, the Southwest Review, and the Texas Observer inside the book.

“He used his books as filing cabinets,” Martin says. “His wide-ranging intellectual curiosity comes through in his collection.”

In grateful acknowledgement of Linda Marcus’ gift, the reading room at DeGolyer will be named the Stanley Marcus Reading Room. A coffee honoring Linda Marcus will take place at DeGolyer Library at 10 a.m. December 9. Highlights of the collection will be displayed. For more information, call 214-768-3231.

Old annotations

DeGolyer receives Marcus library continued from page 1

Film buffs can purchase historic black films

A treasure of black film history has been housed in Hamon Arts Library since canisters of films and newsreels were rescued in 1983 from a dusty warehouse in Tyler, Texas. The one-of-a-kind collection of films, all written, directed, and produced by African Americans in the 1930s and ’40s, features life in a segregated society.

Because of their delicate condition, the films were not readily available to the public; however, a $65,000 Texas state grant in 2002 provided funds to digitize and produce a 3-DVD boxed set of the Tyler, Texas, Black Film Collection. The boxed sets (1,000) are available this fall free of charge to under-funded school districts in Texas. Other groups and individuals can purchase sets for $250 each, which include a narrative booklet and introductory commentary for each film. For information, contact 214-768-4437, or visit www.smu.edu/blackfilms/.

New responsibilities for Judy Searles

Judy Searles, director of the Friends of the SMU Libraries, has taken on additional responsibilities as director of CUL external relations and marketing. She will serve as a liaison between Central University Libraries and its external audiences such as media, event-goers, and patrons.

Searles has worked at SMU for 17 years, 15 at Central University Libraries. Under her leadership membership in the Friends has grown to 500 members. Active in campus life, Searles is a member of the Communications Council, SMU Forum, and Events Committee, and is president of the SMU Women’s Club.
Libraries provide world of support to scholar

History Professor Dennis Cordell has been known to bury his head in a book. The associate vice provost for general education doesn’t remember the Great Plains during a childhood trip west from Missouri. When he looked up from reading *Gone With the Wind* from cover to cover, he was in the Rockies.

Today Cordell reads about African history, Middle Eastern history, and immigration. His recent African research investigates the history of the Sahara and the history of slavery in Africa. In addition, Cordell, Caroline Brettell, professor and chair of anthropology, and Jim Hollifield, professor of political science, are in the final year of a three-year study on the integration of immigrants in North Texas, funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

When Cordell joined SMU in 1977 the Fondren Library collection of books on African and Middle Eastern history filled only a dozen shelves, he says. Now the collection fills more than 10 rows.

"SMU has been very supportive about acquiring resources for fields that were obscure in the American academy 25 years ago," Cordell says. "Over the years the library has built what is now a solid collection of secondary resources on Africa and the Middle East. Interest in these areas has grown, unfortunately fueled by conflict."

Library technology plays an increasingly important role in Cordell’s research, particularly in the area of electronic periodicals and databases. "The number of immigration journals is exploding; the library is very good at acquiring access to new ones, particularly those published abroad."

The interlibrary loan department obtains resources for Cordell such as obscure missionary journals published in Africa in the 19th century and rare volumes of travel literature. "The interlibrary loan department, whose staff includes the very competent Billie Stovall, lender for social sciences and humanities, finds the materials about as quickly as I can get to them," he says.

But the libraries’ greatest strength is less tangible than volumes on shelves or online resources, Cordell says. "The personal service is extraordinary. As a midsized university, SMU is big enough to have all the services of a top-flight library system, yet small enough for the system to respond quickly and with agility to personal requests."

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**The Louisiana Purchase: A Bicentennial Exhibition**

A new exhibit at DeGolyer Library features rare maps, books, and lithographs from the library’s collections that pertain to Lewis and Clark’s transcontinental journey 1804-1806. The exhibit includes 20 Karl Bodmer engravings such as “Blackfoot Indian on Horseback” (left) and James Audubon’s hand-colored lithograph of the Louisiana tanager, recorded for the first time by Lewis in 1805, in present day Idaho.
The multicolors of old money: New collection chronicles Texas currency

The U.S. Federal Reserve System recently introduced a new $20 bill that includes shades of blue and peach as well as green on the traditional illustrations of President Andrew Jackson and the White House. The change is heralded as “safer, smarter, and more secure” by the U.S. Treasury’s Bureau of Engraving and Printing. But more than 100 years ago, paper currency in Texas was red, brown, yellow, and green.

The colors of money are reflected in a collection recently given to DeGolyer Library by collectors B.B. Barr and John Rowe. Their collection of Texas currency, banknotes, and land scrips is the most complete in the United States, says Russell Martin, director of DeGolyer Library.

Banknotes from the Republic of Texas, Confederate banknotes, and currency issued by community banks ranging from Beeville to Seguin are among the hundreds of pieces of currency.

“Each banknote is a fabulous source for Texas banking history. Every little bank in Texas could issue its own notes, which provide information about a community – its people, bank history, and local and political history,” Martin says.

From 1863 to 1935, more than 14,000 national banks in the United States issued currency that was backed by the federal government but bore the image of the issuing bank. In Texas alone, 917 banks in 4,448 towns and cities issued national banknotes.

Before 1866 state-chartered banking in Texas was prohibited, a reflection of Texas Republic President Sam Houston’s mistrust of banks, said John Martin Davis in the winter 2002 issue of Heritage magazine. Private banks, however, issued what was called “hometown paper money,” reflecting the localized finances of the times.

Highlights of the collection include currency in denominations of 25, 37 1/2, and 50 cents. A 6 1/4-cent note issued to Mexican troops stationed at the Nacogdoches frontier post in the 1820s also is included. Republic of Texas treasury notes signed by Sam Houston also are part of the collection.

In addition to currency, the Barr- Rowe collection includes more than 500 historic maps from Europe’s first views of the New World to early maps of Texas cities and towns.

The collection includes the 1718 Carte de la Louisiana et du Cours du Mississippi, a map of the middle United States that correctly traces the course of the Mississippi River but inflates the region labeled as “Louisiane” as stretching from the Rio Grande to the Appalachians. It is the first printed map to designate an area named Texas. It and two other maps from the collection will be displayed at DeGolyer through February 2004 as part of the Louisiana Purchase exhibit.

Plans for the collection include an exhibit and possible digitization to make the valuable banknotes available online for study by researchers and collectors, Martin says.

B.B. Barr and John Rowe and their families will be recognized at an event and display of portions of their collection January 15, 2004, at DeGolyer Library. For more information, call 214-768-3231.

Ready, set, read: Fund-raiser encourages bookish behavior

Central University Libraries invites supporters to write a check without breaking a sweat for the second Zero-K Run. The marathon benefit, which was launched this fall and will accept gifts through May 2004, encourages donors to give to the libraries and devote their time to reading instead of running.

Gifts will support the CUL 21st-Century Fund, designated to develop information technologies. CUL and Information Technology Services (ITS) have joined forces to create the “Information Commons” on the first floor of Fondren Library Center, where patrons can conduct online research, browse the Internet, send and receive e-mail, and write and print papers – all in one location. The new environment brings together traditional library resources, the Internet, and technology tools.

Depending on the level of giving, Zero-K donors can receive the faculty favorites book list, “I Survived the Zero-K Run” T-shirt, and a one-year membership in the Friends of the SMU Libraries.

For more information, contact Amy Carver at 214-768-1939, or visit librariesgift.smu.edu.
Will libraries survive the
digital future?

Gillian McCombs, dean and director of Central University Libraries, addressed the future of libraries in a debate at the annual American Library Association conference in June. McCombs, president-elect of the university libraries section of the ALA, argued for the continued relevance of the library as a place. Her opponents countered that growing dependence on technology will eliminate the need for library buildings. The conclusion – the physical form of libraries may change, but librarians always will be needed.

Do people use libraries as much today as they did in the past?

I suppose that all depends on how you define the word “use.” Yes, people still use libraries as much they did in the past, but how they use libraries today has changed. For instance, we spend more than $300,000 a year for online databases, most of which include full-text articles, which means that students have the luxury of accessing research from their residence halls or apartments without having to visit our physical location.

However, people still come to the library. And in this age of traffic jams and 24-hour news, the library is one of the last bastions of quiet seclusion. As such, we have many students fleeing their dorm rooms and apartments to find a place for quiet study. In fact, we’ve seen an increase of 16,556 in our circulation numbers since 2000-01. The most frequent request from our students is to be open longer hours.

It long has been discussed that books would be replaced by technology, leading to the demise of libraries. Will libraries still be around 20 years from now?

I think librarians have been asked this question since the UNIVAC. In its June 2002 issue, Wired magazine featured a graph titled “Built To Last: Data Storage Isn’t What It Used To Be.” It included various storage materials from clay tablets to magnetic tapes to zip disks. Books were listed as lasting from 500 to 1,000 years while digital counterparts, such as hard drives, zip disks, and floppies, were expected to last no more than 20 years. I’m confident in making this prediction: 20 years from now libraries will still be around — and so will this question.

What is the biggest challenge libraries face in remaining viable sources of information?

Change is very important for libraries; after all, we don’t want to be seen as simply a depository for old stuff. Our biggest challenge always has been and will continue to be providing the most reputable, up-to-date information and materials for our patrons.

We’ll update our facilities (more to come on that soon!), employ the latest technology, and buy the latest materials.

But one thing won’t change. People always will need help finding the information they need, and we’ll still do what we do best — help people find that information, no matter if it’s on the shelves or online.

Anyone who enjoys provocative topics and intelligent discussion is invited to attend the following events in 2003-04, sponsored by the Friends of the SMU Libraries:

**November 20:** Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Lecture Series (series held in conjunction with “The Louisiana Purchase: A Bicentennial Exhibition” at DeGolyer Library)

“’In Territories So Extensive and Fertile’: Spanish and English Speaking Peoples in Louisiana Before the Purchase,” Light T. Cummins, Austin College; reception at 6 p.m., lecture at 7 p.m., Reading Room, DeGolyer Library

**December 2:** Holiday Luncheon

“Identity Theft and an Englishman From the War of the Roses,” Stephen H.A. Shepherd, SMU English Department; noon, Royal Oaks Country Club, 7915 Greenville Ave. (Reservations required.)

**January 23:** Greer Garson Exhibit Opening and Lecture

“Greer Garson as Seen Through the Eyes of Others in Show Business,” in conjunction with the opening of the exhibition, “The Art of Conserving a Legacy: Greer Garson’s ‘Auntie Mame’ Scrapbook.” Ronald Davis, SMU professor emeritus of history; reception at 6 p.m., lecture at 7 p.m., Hawn Gallery, Hamon Arts Library, 6000 Hillcrest Ave.

**February 17:** Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Lecture

“How the French Quarter Became Spanish Before Becoming American in 1803,” James Early, SMU professor emeritus of English; 6 p.m., lecture at 7 p.m., Reading Room, DeGolyer Library.

**April 3:** Tables of Content

Dinner and conversation — tables hosted by Dallas and SMU leaders; 6 p.m., Meadows Museum, 5900 Bishop Blvd. (Reservations required.)

**May 3:** Annual Dinner Meeting

“Taming the Tornado and Other Tall Texas Tales,” Vivian Castleberry, SMU alumna, author, and former section editor, Dallas Times Herald; 6 p.m., (Reservations required.)

For more information about these programs or the Friends of the SMU Libraries, contact Judy Searles at 214-768-3225, jsearles@smu.edu.
Rough Rider passion leads to DeGolyer donation

The Lawrence H. and Doris A. Budner Theodore Roosevelt Collection – one of the largest and most important of its kind – was inspired by a single book.

In 1979 Lawrence Budner read the Pulitzer Prize-winning biography *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt* by Edmund Morris and became captivated with the 26th U.S. president. On a subsequent visit to San Francisco, the Budners were browsing in an antique bookstore and came across a first edition of Roosevelt’s *An Autobiography*. The late Doris Budner urged her husband to buy the book. Gradually they began to acquire other items.

Among the 4,500 items in the collection are first and other rare editions of books by and about Theodore Roosevelt, in addition to magazines, cartoons, speeches, sheet music, government documents, campaign buttons, and original letters by Roosevelt, his family, and contemporaries. The Budners are donating the collection to DeGolyer Library through a series of annual gifts. SMU ultimately will receive the bulk of the collection.

"In a relatively short time, the Budners, with a lot of energy and intelligence, have put together what many have called the most important Theodore Roosevelt collection in private hands," says DeGolyer Director Russell Martin. "Larry has immersed himself in the subject – not only on TR, but on turn-of-the-century America."

Larry Budner earned a B.B.A. degree in 1951 from SMU. He retired in 1987 after 37 years as a banker to pursue a Master’s degree in history at SMU, which he received in 1990. He wrote catalogs for exhibits of the collection in DeGolyer Library in 1988 and 1998, and has taught courses about TR in SMU’s Continuing Education program. Doris also attended the University.

The Budners chose SMU as the recipient of the collection because “there is no comparable TR collection in the Southwest.” They also have close family ties to the University, including several immediate family members who are alumni. “I have always been an SMU fan,” Budner says. “I grew up right around the corner and admire lots of things about SMU. I also have a strong admiration for David Farmer (former DeGolyer director) and what he did for DeGolyer Library.”

The Budners also have made provisions for an endowment to support the collection.

Planned giving opportunities are available through life insurance, bequests, trusts, annuities, retained real estate, and retirement plan designations. Planned gifts offer attractive tax benefits, says Amy Carver, library director of development.

“It has been a pleasure and a privilege to give to SMU,” Budner says. “It makes sense for people who have collections of this size to do something like this with them.”
Gen Y and faculty drawn to library for online resources

A recent survey of 12- to 15-year-olds reports that students turn to the Internet first when researching a school project. Seventy-one percent said the Internet was their primary source of information for schoolwork, while 24 percent said the library was their primary source, according to a study by the Pew Internet and American Life Project.

Violet Le, electronic periodicals librarian, has observed the same trend. Many of the Internet databases and electronic periodicals she manages, however, are available only at the SMU libraries and to SMU faculty and students on their home and office computers.

"You can’t find every resource on Google," Le says. "Serious research requires serious resources available through the library."

She manages databases containing several thousand electronic academic journals, many no longer available on paper. Electronic periodicals resources range from databases such as Project Muse, JSTOR, and Science Direct to hundreds of individual titles from publishers such as the Oxford and Cambridge University Presses. According to American Library Association statistics, libraries are spending an increasing percentage of their budgets — as much as 35 percent — on electronic resources.

Electronic periodicals provide research techniques that are unavailable in paper formats, Le says. Current and back issues of journals may be searched online by topic, specific article, or author.

Electronic journals are part of SMU’s online resources, which include indexes, databases, and government information from all the SMU libraries. Online resources, made available to SMU users for the first time in fall 2000, are updated weekly by librarians.

DeGolyer collections reveal unique view of JFK assassination

Documents chronicling a somber time in Dallas history in DeGolyer Library are attracting interest this fall as the nation marks the 40th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Documents include hate mail sent to 1963 mayor Earle Cabell and papers of retail magnate Stanley Marcus.

Stanley Marcus became a voice of moderation helping the city heal its wounded pride, says Darwin Payne, professor emeritus of communications. The Marcus collection in DeGolyer Library includes hundreds of letters sent to Marcus in response to his editorial “What’s Right About Dallas.” It also includes a specially bound and printed copy of the “Unspoken Speech of John F. Kennedy.”

As mayor, Earle Cabell received numerous letters from throughout the world reflecting both anger and sympathy for the residents of Dallas. His papers also are among DeGolyer’s special collections.

To learn more about the role these civic leaders played in Dallas history a Web site has been developed with summaries of DeGolyer collections pertaining to the assassination and links to some of the actual documents. For more information visit www.smu.edu/jfk.

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New members April 1 through September 30, 2003. To become a member of the Friends of the SMU Libraries visit smu.edu/libraries/friends.
Exhibits
- Through December 8, Peter Schoeffer: Printer of Mainz, Bridwell Library
- Through December 18, Maps of a Changing World: Works from the Collection of C. Reid Ferring, Hawn Gallery, Hamon Arts Library
- Through January 10, International Studies, Fondren Library
- Through January 10, JFK: Forty Years — A Time to Remember, Fondren Library
- January 12-March 7, The Art of Conserving a Legacy: Greer Garson’s “Auntie Mame” Scrapbook, Hawn Gallery, Hamon Arts Library
- January 14-April 9, Let It Go Among Our People: the Bible in English from Wyclif to the King James, Bridwell Library

A letter from Lee Harvey Oswald’s mother, Marguerite, to U.S. Senator Earle Cabell can be viewed at smu.edu/jfk.